

THE CANADIAN INDEPENDENT

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ORGAN
OF THE
INDEPENDENT
THEATRES
ASSOCIATION

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RADIO COMPETITION DECRIED BY I.T.A.

EDITORIAL VIEWS

THE CRITIC RIGHT OR WRONG

In this column a fortnight ago we took occasion to emphatically insist on the inalienable rights of the critic to shape public opinion and taste regardless of whatever damage to investment capital or potential profits the practice of these rights may entail.

Today we hang our head in shame, for we have the unpleasant duty of admitting that in the large and illustrious family of critics one will crop up now and then who abuses the power entrusted to him.

Not bothering to smother a yawn behind a polite hand, Roly Young, Film critic of Toronto Globe and Mail, writes in his column of February 3, "I am prejudiced against foreign films—I have never seen any foreign acting or direction that has not been duplicated a hundred times by the poor inartistic mugs who make our regular commercial product. It is quite some time since I have seen imported films.—There is a new one coming along shortly, The 'Art' of which consists of showing the crudities and roughness of early court life in Russia." (This reference is to the new Soviet film "Peter The First" which was awarded first prize in

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Current Hits

Hurricane.
Buccaneer.
Happy Landing.
Rosalie.
Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.

U.A. Canadian Sales Biggest In Company's History

Canadian Division Holds Three Top Spots In Sales Drive Despite Rift With Famous Players

The Toronto Exchange of United Artists Corporation is jubilant! Canada is carrying the banner in the United Artists Better Business Drive, and running away with the laurels for the entire continent, occupying the top three positions on the sales chart.

All this is being accomplished in spite of the rift between United Artists and Famous Players that caused U.A. to sell away from Famous Players, the largest most powerful exhibitor chain, and place its entire product with independents.

"Hurricane" is making a unique record for itself for staying power in the fol-

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Quebec Exhibs Hope- ful Juvenile Admish Ban Modification

A large group of Montreal exhibitors led by the Quebec Allied Theatrical Industries, is hopeful that the present legislative Session will act in favor of reducing the age limit at which children may attend motion picture theatres.

Expectation is that the present limit of 16 years will be reduced to 12 years. Theatre owners contend that these admissions are necessary if theatres are to be operated in Quebec on a paying basis.

The Independent Theatres Association Meeting held Feb. 11 at the King Edward Hotel condemned Holly- wood's aerial bombardment of exhibitor boxoffices.

New Canadian U.S. Trade Pact May Boost Biz Here

The new mutual trade agreement to be negotiated between the United States and Canada may materially alter film tariffs.

The Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America has declared that it will attempt to either maintain the status quo or seek more favorable provisions to govern film exports to Canada.

Terms of the current agreement, in force for the last two years, calls for a levy of 12½ cents per lb. on printed advertising matter of U. S. film industry origin

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Toronto Pressmen Protest Radio Advertising on CBC

The Toronto District Trades and Labor Council is appealing to the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada to protest to the Federal government certain workings of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

"The Printing Pressman's Union is complaining about being thrown out of work by the amount of advertising the corporation is allowing on the air," said Mr. Robert Brown, speaking for the Pressmen. He also protested the Corporation's not using Canadian talent to the extent promised.

Thursday's demolition of boxoffice receipts, due to radio competition in the city of Toronto is so complete that one exhibitor facetiously suggested that no more association luncheon meetings be called for Fridays as the Thursday profits were insufficient to cover the cost per plate. Another said that in his neighborhood one could shoot a cannon down the middle of the street during theatre admission hours on that night and not hurt a single soul.

A comparison of incomes between Thursday and other theatre mid-week nights brought out the undeniable fact that grosses were between 25% and 50% lower for that night. The consensus of opinion of a large meeting was, that this type of competition forced on independents by Hollywood producers, is placing an unwarranted strain on their business.

The growing threat of Bingo was discussed by several members whose neighborhood houses are being seriously affected by the bringing together of as many as 600 people in church basements for this type of amusement. Reports from Winnipeg are coming in that an average of 15,000

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Held Over In Toronto

Stage Door.
Dinner At The Ritz.
Hurricane.
Rosalie.
Buccaneer.

THE CANADIAN INDEPENDENT

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EDIT VIEWS

(Continued from Page 1)

the 1937 Paris Film Exposition). Mr. Young proceeds, "It will be argued that the unknown actor gives a fine performance as the Emperor, so do Charlie Laughton and Cedric Hardwicke in innumerable films."

To begin with, this blase critic who is evidently too much the tired business man to wish to be confronted with any but the usual and routine, rules himself out as a critic when he admits prejudices; and when a critic is too disinterested to bother to look at product, he would be wiser to pass over such omissions in silence.

A critic appraising a film is in much the same position as a chemist making an analysis. Either job should be done on the merits of the specimen in hand. The ideal critic is like a filtre through which the material he is considering should pass to be clarified and tested.

If the critic admits that the fabric of his testing apparatus is so loose in mesh, to begin with, and he so tired and jaded that he lets the substance run through unheeded, he is shirking his job. If, on the other hand, as he admits, his fabric is so clogged with prejudice that it cannot filtre anything properly anyhow, he damns himself doubly.

Mr. Young's observation that any acting or direction in foreign films, no matter how capable, has been duplicated in Hollywood or England, puts him in the ludicrous position of the person who said he didn't want

Urban, Toronto's
Operatic Maestro
in Hollywood

Braheen Urban, who directed Toronto's cycle of Opera here two years ago, is working on the 20th Century Fox lot in Hollywood. He is composer-director of a musical romance titled "Forbidden Melody," which he produced with amateur talent drawn from the chorus and extra ranks of 20th Century Fox.

Mrs. Urban is still in Toronto organizing a local operatic group.

Simone Simon
Dangerously Ill

The little French 20th Century - Fox film star, Simone Simon is suffering from an attack of Bronchopneumonia that keeps two physicians alternating at her bedside, awaiting the crisis.

Work on "Josette" in which Miss Simon was co-starred with Don Ameche was suspended. The shooting was practically finished, but some of the star's voice-recordings were still to be made.

a book as a gift for he already has a book.

In distinct contrast with this critic's insular exclusiveness is the attitude of Augustus Bridle, of the Toronto Daily Star, writing on the need of a foreign-language theatre in Toronto: "What Toronto wants is films expressing the art and the life of other peoples than our own. The screen is meant to be the most powerfully international, because it expresses the actual life of our country. But at present the screen is less cosmopolitan than the stage, or the novel, or the concert program or even the art galleries."

Opinions among critics will necessarily differ, but attitudes should remain alert, intelligent and unobstructed by prejudice. We disagree violently with everything Roly Young says but we would defend with an editorial, his right to say it.

I.T.A. MEETING DECRIES
RADIO COMPETITION

(Continued from Page 1)

people a night play Bingo in that city. In Hamilton, Ont., considerable space is used for newspaper advertising of the chance game called "housy-housy," which attracts from one to two thousand players a night. The situation was attacked in Kitchener, Ont. and the game was outlawed.

The meeting passed a resolution that since Bingo, under its various names, was in many instances promoted by organizations selling "prizes" for a profit, and that since institutions lending themselves to its use do not enjoy the full profits themselves and that such games are conducted for the most part in tax-free property, and that this practice is therefore an unfair form of competition to the regularly-constituted theatre business, that the matter be referred to the Toronto Board of Trade for consideration and action.

CAN. - U.S. TRADE PACT

(Continued from Page 1)

and 3 cents a running foot of films crossing into Canada. The preferential British levy is one and one half cents per foot.

Scaling down of the current rates, it is believed, would bring a proportionately greater prosperity to the Canadian wing of the business.

eration and action.

Mr. Thomas Walton, a new member of the I T A took the floor to stress the need of change in the clearance schedule. Nat Taylor who occupied the chair in Mr. Freedman's absence, offered to cover the subject of clearance in his report on Conciliation. The Conciliation Committee, a comparatively new body organized to function within the Film Section of the Toronto Board of Trade, is to hold its next regular meeting on Feb. 16. Mr. Taylor stated that ITA representatives on that committee, of which he is one, have taken the unalterable position that until clearance is dealt with as the first and most important subject for consideration, that they would refuse to cooperate on any minor, less important subject.

"Clearance, as it exists in Toronto, today," said Mr. Taylor, "is diabolical, and is used as a weapon by chain interests against independent exhibitors."

A letter from Colonel Cooper was read inviting the I T A to make suggestions for amendments to the Standard Contract. Nat Taylor informed the meeting that the Board of Directors had replied by reminding the Colonel that the associa-

(Continued on Page 7)



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CANADIAN LICENSE AGREEMENT REVIEWED

By Harold Kay, Ben Ulster and Harry Firestone (Press Com. ITA)

FORCED OVER-BUYING OF SHORTS

Duals vs Shorts

The whole subject of shorts is inextricably bound up with the much-discussed and moot subject of duals.

Polls conducted to determine the popularity of double bills have established two things, that a large section of the public is opposed to them, and that a large section favors them; also that the demand varies from country to country and from neighborhood to neighborhood. England and Canada are more favorable to duals than the U.S., and poorer neighborhoods want duals more than the more prosperous sections do.

The independent exhibitor therefore has little choice in the matter of double billing. His customers are the keener shoppers who wait for subsequent runs at bargain prices. They have also demonstrated an unmistakable demand for quantity. Therefore, duals, for the time being, are a foregone conclusion in subsequent-run theatres.

No Room For Shorts

That being so, there is little room on the program of these houses for shorts, unless refreshments and smelling salts were also added

to revive failing appetites and overburdened senses.

Yet, an exhibitor is not free to buy his product in the light of his experience for his particular requirements. **He is forced to buy a proportionate number of shorts even though he knows that he cannot make room for them on his programs and still turn over enough shows a day to keep solvent.**

Why should an exhibitor be forced to buy shorts, that he does not need, in order that he may get product that he does need?

It isn't altogether because production studios, in an effort to cover overhead, grind out this type of stuff and put pressure on the distributor to market it for them. For frequently exchanges buy shorts from studios other than their own.

Shorts for Previous Runs

The answer is that first and second-run houses **can and do run** single-bill shows. This class of exhibitor needs a variety of shorts to fill in programs. Therefore, shorts are made and handled in large quantities to supply the need of previous-run

customers. **They are then forced on the independents, who do not need them, to help cover cost and ensure profits on this class of product.**

Unused Shorts

In spite of the independent exhibitor's efforts to round out his contracts, frequently the short-subject product remains unused at the end of the contract period. This unused product has been the subject of many arbitrations. **In every case the exhibitor has lost his case and been contrained to pay for this product because the license agreement gives him no leeway in the matter.**

If the exhibition situation remains what it is, and at present we see no possibility of subsequent houses being able to compete without dual programs, cognizance will have to be taken of this class of customer in the production and selling department of the industry.

Indies Need Few Shorts

Subsequent theatres do not need large quantities of shorts as fillers. Some need, however, has been expressed for a different type of short. A three or four-reeler with at least one good comedy star whose name could be used for marquee purposes. Such shorts could be used with the longer feature or special pictures, to round out a program. This long-short could take the place of the second feature and in many cases make a more satisfactory combination as to both time and comedy relief.

Examples of this type of short, if made into a three or four-reeler, are the two Regal releases, "Buried Loot" with Robert Taylor; and "Every Sunday" with Deanna Durbin.

More Shorts

Recently a notice was circulated among exhibitors, by the 20th Century-Fox Corporation, informing them that this company will release 52 single-reel subjects during the 1938-9 season, and asking the exhibitor to make provision for this unit.

Exhibitors are asking themselves and each other, how in tarnation they can be expected to buy and make room for more and more units, **or are they just expected to buy?**

Note:

The press committee of the Independent Theatres Association, which is responsible for the preparation of this series of articles reviewing and analyzing the Canadian License Agreement wishes to state that it has no desire to embarrass or injure any member of the industry by so doing. It seeks only to throw light on a complicated situation, and perhaps to achieve a more equitable basis for future contractual relationships between distributor and exhibitor.

CANADIAN PLAY STRONG IN LONDON

Mazo de la Roche's play, "Whiteoaks" is soon to pass the 850th performance mark in London, England.

U. A. BETTER BIZ. DRIVE

(Continued from Page 1)

lowing spots: It is in its 7th week at the Orpheum, Montreal, and booked for an indefinite run; its 7th week at the Plaza, Vancouver, expected to stay 10 weeks; its 6th week at the Garrick, Winnipeg; its 5th week at the Elgin, Ottawa. It broke all previous house records when it opened at the Lyric Theatre, Hamilton, last week.

The total grosses on U. A. sales for the season so far are the highest in the history of the Company said Mr. Haskell Masters, Canada's District Manager.

Toronto Boys and Girls Make Good

Bobby Breen, one of Toronto's outstanding contributions to screen and radio entertainment, now has a stand-in, who strangely enough also hails from the Queen City. Larry Harris will double for Bobby in his new picture "Hawaiian Hello."

Ann Rutherford, born in Toronto, eighteen years ago, and now working in Hollywood after a career in theatrical stock dating from the tender age of five years, has been named as first choice for 1938 stardom among a promising group of beautiful young Hollywood starlets.

TORONTO THEATRES FIRST RUN

IMPERIAL THEATRE — "BUCCANEER" — PARA.
LOEW'S — "ROSALIE" — MGM.
SHEAS — "EVERY DAY'S A HOLIDAY" — PARA.
"THRILL OF A LIFETIME" — PARAMOUNT.
UPTOWN — "HAPPY LANDING"—20th CENTURY
FOX.

GNATS, NUTS AND FAIRY TALES

By Hans Christian Anderson II.

When we leave the realm of every-day reality and launch ourselves into the realm of fantasy, we either make port or we arrive in goofy-land. That's what makes flights of fancy so perilous, and that's why so many imaginative people end up in the bug-house. They fail to make a proper landing and remain floating about in that rarified strathosphere of the mind that marks the no-man's-land of irresponsibility.

But this wish to take off and go places, imaginatively speaking, is like a disease, and like other infections, it is catching.

A case broke out here a few weeks ago and already I feel the symptoms creeping up on me. I started out by following the stricken one into the land of romance, watched her theatrical capers with a rusty sword going through the motions of Don Quixote-like defending the mythical honor of a mythical maid.

I thought then that perhaps it would be a mild attack and we would both be well over it in a short time. But that shows how wrong I was. Symptoms are multiplying. Now, the original carrier of the bug has broken through into the Land of Fables. Well, it's a merry place, and I have the uncontrollable urge to take off after her.

But gnats and honey jugs! That begins to sound like Goofy Land, and that's one place I'm determined to stay away from. So, to make assurance doubly sure, I'll choose for the theme of my fairy tale one that is now being acclaimed in the world of reality, one that was just launched on a respectable career in our own dear industry by no less a personage than Walt Disney.

You see, I'm keeping myself well-grounded with the earth while sailing my balloon into the perilous ether. But I'm going to take a few liberties with the original text of—

"Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs"

My little Snow White, while wandering in a thick forest one day, lost her way; and weary and hungry, she came upon the house of the Seven Dwarfs. Now, these dwarfs, though little fellows, had sizeable hearts, and they took the maiden in and let her keep house for them while they foraged in the woods for a living. The one condition that they made with Snow White was, that she should not open the door to strangers in their absence. Snow White, being a good little girl, kept the pledge for many years.

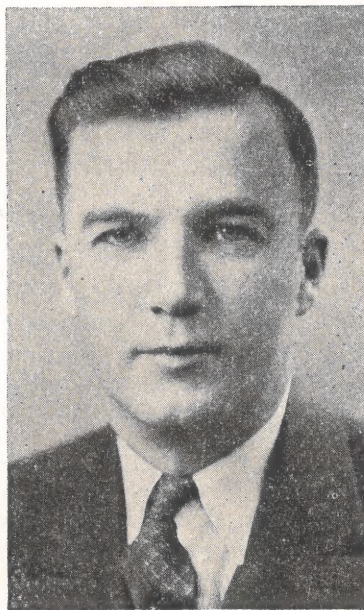
Now this forest in which they dwelt was an enchanted forest, and over it ruled a wicked witch. This witch, envious of the innocence of this unblemished maiden, and troubled by her happy singing as she went about her simple tasks, plotted her seduction.

One night, when the moon was dark, the witch went to the Big Bear of the Cave, and, changing him into a prince with an enchanted castle, sent him out to win the pure maiden.

We all know how he gained entrance into the humble house in the dwarfs' absence, kissed the hitherto innocent lips, and how the maiden rose and followed him into the enchanted castle, there to remain eating honey out of a jug set aside for her maintenance. For, you will remember, that at heart this prince was still a bear, and that his secret yearning was only for the golden nectar to be gathered in the enchanted forest; and his castle was full of hoarded honey jugs.

The dwarfs mourned the loss of Snow White for many years, but being men, they forgot and got themselves another housekeeper and their affairs in the forest prospered.

Well, after a time, enchantments, like other things, have a way of petering out, and the honey jug assigned to Snow White too, petered out. The Prince, like all seducers of young maidens, had his mind on other affairs by this



F. E. Peters, recently appointed General Manager of Dominion Sound Equipments Limited.

Mr. Peters was born in North Dakota in 1899. At the age of four years he came to Canada with his parents and settled in Saskatoon, Sask., where he attended public school and later the Collegiate Institute. During vacation periods he studied law with the firm of Bence Stevenson and Mr. Long in that city, but changed to the banking profession in 1915, entering the Union Bank as a Junior Clerk and was later transferred to Regina and other branches, and finally to the main Vancouver Office. In 1923 he left the bank to become District Credit Manager of the Northern Elec-

Toronto Schools Use Movies as Study Aid

Dr. C. C. Goldring, Supt. of Toronto schools, said that pictures are now being used in the Toronto schools as aids to study in history, geography, literature and nature study.

Lessons are made more vivid and interesting by the help of the screen, and the film is considered, by modern educators to be one of the most effective means of capturing the student's attention, and impelling him to think.

The Toronto picture library has 40,000 lantern slides, 140 reels of film slides and 90 movie films which are sent out to the different schools on request.

Two of the secondary schools are equipped with projectors and wired for sound. Fifteen public schools have movie machines and 12 projectors are kept at the central office to be sent out as needed.

Electric Company Limited, in Vancouver. Six years later he was transferred to the General Department of the Company as General Credit Manager.

In 1935 he was appointed Assistant Treasurer of Dominion Sound Equipments Limited, becoming Secretary of that Company in 1937. At the first of this year Mr. Peters was made General Manager, replacing the late O. R. Harvey.

time, and Snow White finally saw through the whole plot. There was a terrible moment of realization in which she knelt and prayed for help. Prayer has a magic all its own, and even in that black forest, the wicked witch trembled at the sound of it. She hurried to the side of the stricken maiden and counseled her thuswise,—“What is done cannot be undone. You have acquired a taste for honey and cannot live without it, but there will be none in the castle from now on. I will do one thing for you though. I will change you into a busy bee and you can go and gather from the forest flowers for yourself.” The maiden, realizing that she had no alternative, dried her eyes and let the mystic words be said over her.

And now she flits about busily gathering the precious yellow nectar and her hum can be heard on the air as she makes her way through the dense undergrowth of the forest. As she works snatches of the old melodies she used to sing in the little house of the Dwarfs come back to her and she gives them voice to lighten her toil. Also she cannot help hoping that the prince will hear her sing and perhaps again be captivated by the tune, for the memory of the big castle, the honey pots and the life of ease still haunt her.

Pros And Cons Of Nazi News Reel Still Raging

Not since the newsreel of the Chicago Steel Mill Riot, has so much emotion and discussion been stirred up as by the latest March of Time Subject "Inside Nazi Germany, 1938."

Warner Bros. banned this film from their circuit as pro-Nazi while groups sympathetic to the German cause are protesting it as flagrantly anti-German.

The following is a reprint from the New York Post, that commissioned a former German newspaperman and scenario writer for U.F.A., now resident in the U.S. to review the film. Mr. Martin Proctor writes:-

"After seeing the newest March of Time film, the so-called inside story of Germany of 1938, I was deeply surprised by the methods of advance promotion of the movie. One of the blurbs was printed even in your paper.

"After reading the blurbs, there was no other impression possible for the average reader than to imagine that this newsreel was an unbiased piece of pictorial inside information made recently with great cunning and personal risks. In one notice I read that these films were smuggled out of Germany by way of Latvia.

"Short Cut to the 'Inside'

"Now I have seen the film.

I can only say that most of the footage is cut from official German newsreels. To show such a film in the United States, nobody would have to risk his life in Germany. The mere writing of a letter to the UFA, Doenhoffsplatz, Berlin, inclosing the necessary dollars for the negatives, would bring the whole 'inside information' by the next boat from Hamburg.

"Or most probably the UFA Films, Inc., 729 Seventh Avenue, New York City, will have most of this stuff in stock at cut-rate prices because parts of the newsreel were made from negatives of Reichsparteitag festivals and other official gatherings in Germany.

"The only scenes probably made in Germany for the especial purpose of this film were the scenes showing the street signs, 'No Jews admitted here,' etc. I know that generally the photographing of these signs was forbidden. But because the signs are not constantly guarded they can be snapped quite easily with a hand camera during a safe hour.

"The Sound and the Fuehrer

"How can the March of Time offer this newsreel as 'inside information'? Can any one visiting Germany on a short trip see less than the parading as shown in this strip? Can any one see from this film how Germany's anti-Hitler citizens are suff-

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DIGEST of REVIEWS

COLUMBIA

NO TIME TO MARRY—

A light, swift, gay comedy with newspaper background, starring Richard Arlen, Mary Astor and Lionel Stander. Should please generally.

START CHEERING—

Jimmy Durante clowns his way through this musical comedy which has some good music and songs by Gertrude Neissen. Some of the gags will roll them in the aisles.

WARNER BROS.

SWING YOUR LADY—

This one was made for laughs and will get its quota. Story of a wrestler, his trainers and manager in hill-billy country, with good incidental music thrown in. Penny Singleton, a new-comer, looks like a find and should go places.

GIRL ON PROBATION—

A very good program picture with Benita Granville of "These Three" fame, which should meet with success in the neighborhood runs.

BLONDES AT WORK—

Another of the Torchy Blanes which is by far the best of the series, and one that will help to build up any program. Stars Glenda Farrell and Barton MacLane.

UNITED ARTISTS

I MET MY LOVE AGAIN—

Walter Wanger has delivered a pleasing picture that will appeal mostly to women and lovers. A sentimental yarn with Joan Bennett and Henry Fonda with limited appeal.

EMPIRE-UNIVERSAL

MAMA RUNS WILD—

This Republic is a little surprise package, full of comedy with Mary Boland and Ernest Truex starring. It will strengthen any program.

THE BLACK DOLL—

One of the crime club series making fair entertainment. Strictly grade B to be preceded by a strong feature.

20TH CENTURY-FOX

HAPPY LANDING—

This latest Sonja Henie vehicle will garner plenty at the boxoffice. Picture boasts a great starring cast, Sonja's skating and a good story. Total—an "A" picture!

PARAMOUNT

DAUGHTER OF SHANGHAI—

A good action melodrama, bringing back Anna May Wong to the screen. Story deals with the smuggling of aliens into the U. S. and the breaking up of the smuggling ring. Pic. will do best in neighbors.

COSMOPOLITAN FILMS

THE THIRTEEN—

This Soviet offering is reminiscent of "The Lost Patrol." The story of twelve men and a woman lost in the Kara Koum desert in Asia, and their life and death struggle with an outlaw band for a water hole, until a relief contingent rescues the only survivor. Photography and acting acclaimed by top critics. English titles.

PETER THE FIRST—

This Russian film with English titles was awarded first prize at the Paris Film Exposition as the best 1937 picture. Historic in theme, it is done with an emotional vigor that brings to life the characters and the era. No serious follower of the film art should miss this one.

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My True Confession

By Stella

Ever since I left the sheltering parental wing and fared forth to face an indifferent world with the few wits at my command as my chief weapon, I have never been patronized. That is, not until the other day when my good friend Ray Lewis, editor and publisher of "the little paper with the big ideas" (the quotes are hers) extended to me her motherly wing.

The sense of well-being that came over me at this generous gesture gave me a new insight into the lure that lies in all patronage. I shall never be so harsh a judge again.

In my pleasantly relaxed state, I yielded myself up to the rhythmic strokings of Ray's so-friendly hand, and almost began to purr.

From that supine condition I was suddenly shocked into my usual alertness, for, having thoroughly disarmed me, my motherly friend began to talk down to me, as mothers have a way of doing. They first establish their own superiority in

**Technical High
Makes Sound
Movies**

Mr. H. R. Reed, in charge of Toronto Danforth Technical High School, electrical shop, is giving his students a practical course in movie-making. The school today has 2,500 feet of film depicting indoor and outdoor school activities.

The school boasts a silent and a sound projector, the silent for outdoor use. Colored films are made in the girls' classes; no sound films are made in the school.

Movies are made of shop work routines, dressmaking classes, sports and field days, and are shown in the school auditorium once or twice a week.

years and experience, and from that vantage point, begin sniping.

As to Ray's claims on the score of years and experience, there are none who will say her nay. I concede the lady's past. The lady may now take her bow.

As to her charging me with the heinous crimes of youth, (in the motion picture field) innocence, (I suppose that was meant in general), and intellectualism, — if modesty permitted, I would categorically admit the charges and take my bow.

If a child must lead them, perhaps it is better that the child be innocent and not wholly devoid of mentality. The other charge, the one of high-browism, perhaps I'll admit that too, if by being a high-brow Ray means having a weakness for ivory towers.

I get a swell view from mine. Come up and see me some night Ray, and I'll show you more stars on a larger screen than you'll ever see in a picture theatre.

I like it up here. I'm acclimatized to it; so, if you don't mind, I'll decline your well-meant offer to some day give me the low-down. You see, I never developed a taste for the stuff.

"Biggest Yet" - says Taylor!

N. A. Taylor, head of largest Independent group of Exhibitors in Canada, says — "We have put on 'Dancing Lady' in a number of our theatres, and have found it to be the biggest drawing premium we have ever had."

Get exclusive rights to "Dancing Lady" in your zone by getting in touch with us NOW!

Canadian Premium Distributors

277 VICTORIA STREET TORONTO WA. 3116

**Annual Gesture Re
License Agreement**

Just after the first of the year, it is the accustomed routine for the Motion Picture Distributors' Organization to send a form letter to all exhibitor organizations inviting them to make suggestions for changes in the standard film contract.

Such a letter was received by the Independent Theatres Association, and taken up at a meeting of the Board of Directors, who, in turn, wrote to Colonel John A. Cooper, one of their usual replies to this annual invitation, in part as follows:

"Since this Association has been formed it has endeavored, acting through you, to have certain amendments made to the Canadian Licenses Agreement, and has made suggestions for such amendments. The only practical results from such suggestions have been trivial changes in wording, which have no great effect on the bulk of the contract. Other requests for changes have been evaded in one manner or another. The principles for changing the contract are contained in the issue of Canadian Independent dated August 15th, 1936, copy of which you undoubtedly have on record. Accordingly it seems unnecessary to reiterate.

However, we have one suggestion to make which may have some practical result, and that is to have either a one-man or three-man arbitration committee to

**Circle Theatre Pulls Smart
Exploit Gag**

The Circle Theatre put on Toronto's best exploitation stunt of the week when manager Yudin had Controller Freddy Hamilton and Baby Yack, Canada's bantam weight champion at the theatre last Thursday night during the showing of "Nothing Sacred" to rule on the knockout blow dealt to Carole Lombard by Frederick March.

A big crowd turned out in spite of the Thursday broadcasts.

consider our requests, and your version of same, in order to determine whether or not changes should be made."

Yours very truly,
Independent Theatres Assn.
N. A. Taylor, Vice-Pres.
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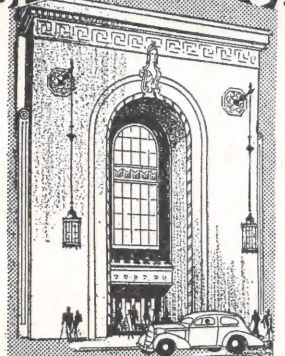
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Academy Nominees For 1937 Awards Winners To Be Announced March 3

The following nominations for the 1937 Awards for distinguished screen service were made by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. The list includes pictures, actors, directors, writers and song writers:-

The best picture of the year: "The Awful Truth," "Captains Courageous," "Dead End," "The Good Earth," "In Old Chicago," "The Life of Emile Zola," "Lost Horizon," "One Hundred Men and a Girl," "Stage Door," and "A Star Is Born."

Best acting performance: Boyer, in "Conquest," March in "A Star Is Born," Montgomery in "Night Must Fall," Muni in "The Life of Emile Zola" and Tracy in "Captains Courageous."

Best performance by any actress: Dunne in "The Awful Truth," Garbo in "Camille," Gaynor in "A Star Is Born," Rainer in "Good Earth" and Stanwyck in "Stella Dallas."

Best directing: "The Awful Truth," Leo McCarey; "The Good Earth," Sidney Franklin; "The Life of Emile Zola," William Dieterle; "Stage Door," Gregory LaCava and "A Star Is Born," William A. Nellman.

Best screen play: "The Awful Truth," "Captains Courageous," "The Life of Emile Zola," "Stage Door," "A Star Is Born."

Louise Rainer Ill On Long Holiday

Louise Rainer, thought at first to be suffering from overwork, is now planning on a three-month holiday on the continent with her play-right husband, Clifford Odets.

Miss Rainer is hoping to use some of her time during convalescence to resume her writing of a novel on Hollywood, begun during her first few weeks in bed.

Condition of Prints

Exhibitors Complain of Oil Stains

At a general meeting of the ITA held at the King Edward Hotel, Friday, Feb. 11th, 1938, several members complained of the condition in which prints were delivered to them.

Aside from the fact that prints are kept in use after they are too worn for good projection, exhibitors claim that they are frequently delivered with oil stains and streaks. These oily blemishes cause blurs, streaks and flickers on the screen, and dim portions of the picture. It was emphatically stated that responsibility rests with the exchanges to deliver film in fit condition to be run. The fact that carelessness on the part of previous operators may be at the root of the trouble, in no way exonerates the exchange, as it is possible to have film examined and cleaned periodically to take care of the oily accumulations.

Also the careless joining of frames by theatre operators should be mended by exchange mechanics to prevent breakdowns and interrupted sequences of sight and sound.

Attention to the matter of the condition of prints has been promised by exchanges, after previous complaints, but complaining members report that aside from one exchange bringing in an extra print per picture, little improvement is observable.

Helen Hays Stops Theatre Panic in Fire Threat

Helen Hays stepped before the curtain of a Chicago theatre during a performance of "Victoria, Regina" when smoke from an adjacent fire threatened to create a panic and calmed the hysterical spectators.

Asked by Miss Hays if they want the show to go, they demonstrated their interest by settling quietly down again in their seats, and firemen outside took care of the rest.

I.T.A. MEET

(Continued from Page 2)

tion has put itself on record as to changes desired by it. That previous requests in connection with these suggestions have been passed over, and that the members of the board stand ready to put the matter before a joint body appointed for the purpose of arbitrating the moot points.

Score charge was variously discussed by Harold Kay, acting ITA secretary, and Harry Firestone. It was denounced as a "gag for additional film rental" and the meeting voted itself as unconditionally opposed to the continuance of this outmoded charge.

Harold Kay and Ben Ulster reported for the Press Committee, in charge of policy and finances of the Canadian Independent, official organ of the ITA. At Mr. Kay's suggestion the meeting tendered a vote of thanks to the editor, Mrs.

Ballet Master Finds Canadian Stars

Two Canadian girls with aspirations for dancing careers, were recognized by Colonel Wassily de Basil, manager of the Ballet Russe as great future stars of the dance.

Rosemary Deveson of Winnipeg and Denise Meyers of Vancouver were inducted into the Ballet Russe, and will travel to London for the season's engagement.

S. H. Falk, for the gratifying progress made by this publication.

New members inducted at this meeting are: Mr. Thos. Walton, National Theatre; Mr. M. Becker, College Playhouse; Mr. A. Wolfe, Classic Theatre and Mr. S. Roth, Review Theatre, all of Toronto.

A discussion on the poor condition of prints is reported in another column of this paper.

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Yours very truly,

20th CENTURY THEATRES,

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N. A. Taylor, General-Manager.

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MARCH OF TIME NAZI REEL

(Continued from Page 5)

ering?

"The whole is a flaming pro-Nazi story, if there ever was one. What do you really see? Youth marching, singing and working. Iron factories and other plants going full blast. Babies cared for, people fed, soldiers and brown-shirts well clad and well fed, marching happily. And dictators orating and people cheering.

"Where is the real 'inside story'? Where is the picture showing how many million marks were stolen from the workers' unions, and how the unions themselves were ruthlessly penalized and abolished?

"Where is the 'inside story' of how strikers have

been cruelly, jailed and shot, because they dared ask for better wages? Where do I see the courageous pastors and priests chased from the pulpits and thrown into jail?

"Where is the story of how the Fuehrers themselves are living, spending money without any serious control, and the story of how they and their underlings are keeping large 'personal staffs,' which are really harems of male or female favorites, according to individual taste?

"Where is the story of the SS leader, one of the biggest sadists who ever lived, and the story of his villa, heavily guarded by marksmen of his

blackshirted staff? And what about Hitler's Praetorians, the few men officially almost unknown, but whose deeds are grape-vined in terrified whispers throughout the country?

"Bestowing a Medal

"Where is the picture of the numerous young, clean girls forced to join the BDM, a young girls' group, and often seduced in the camps by the young Bund leaders?

"What about the simple workmen who were so foolishly brave as to refuse membership in the 'Labor Front' and who are now rotting in a concentration camp and are sure never to find work again?

"And what about the unfortunate Socialist and Com-

munist members of the former Parliament, kept behind barbed wire in mud and mire for five years and without hope of pardon?

"I must stop this list of questions because the March of Time people, least of all, can answer them.

"This time they have fooled the public. They have abused the wide interest of the democratic people of America in behalf of this badly composed and dishonest news strip.

"The March of Time editor has done his modest bit for Nazi Germany. And by order of Herr Goebbels himself, I herewith bestow upon the editor the 'Clubfoot medal' made of hollow tin, to be worn with a swastika on a ribbon festooned with a blurb."